Airlinks with Pakistan

1656. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any talks with Pakistani counterparts have since taken place for resumption of airlinks with Pakistan;

(b) if so, the progress so far made in this regard; and

(c) by when airlinks with Pakistan are likely to be resumed indicating the airstations proposed to be linked, the frequency of flights and the likely volume of traffic between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) Bilateral civil aviation matters are slated to be discussed at technical level between the civil aviation authorities of India and Pakistan on 27-28 August, 2003. The issues of direct air services, overflights, and the specific dates of resumption of civil aviation links on reciprocal basis would be discussed during the meeting.

Helicopter service to pilgrimage centres in Uttaranchal

†1657. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether helicopter services have been introduced or are proposed to be introduced for the pilgrimage of some religious centres in Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the names thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government are providing aid to the State Government for the construction of some helipads in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, had operated the services, on experimental basis, from Augustmuni to the Holy Shrine of Kedarnath from 16th of May, 2003 to 30th of June, 2003. The services have been temporarily suspended with effect from 1st July, 2003 due to monsoon.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.